"SCIENCE COURT"
Episode Synopses

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WATER CYCLE (101)

I.M. Richman and his befuddled attorney, Doug Savage, take Pip Peterson to court. Richman claims that Peterson's leaky pipes made him slip and fall. And, he's got witnesses. But are Peterson's pipes really leaking? Attorney Alison Krempel demonstrates how the water that dripped from the pipes may have actually come from the air. In fact, Alison shows that the pipes are actually victims of the water cycle, an endless cycle of evaporation and condensation. The verdict: not guilty. But the jury encourages Ms. Peterson to look for ways to prevent the water from condensing on her pipes.

WORK AND SIMPLE MACHINES (102)

Is Mary Murray the laziest worker at RoboCorp? Her boss, Mr. Sludge, thinks she is. After all, she doesn't sweat and stink like her co-worker, Joe Shmo. Mr. Sludge demotes Mary to "the pit." Yuck! But Mary refuses to go and the case ends up in court. Doug Savage, representing RoboCorp, says that hard work and sweat go together. He points out that Mary reads several books a week at her job. And, these books have small type and no pictures. Alison Krempel defends Mary with the scientific definition of work. Effort, or force, is just part of work, and you don't have to exert a lot of effort if you have a mechanical advantage. Expert witness Professor Parsons demonstrates how Mary gets that advantage by using a lever, a simple machine. Not only is Mary found to be a hard worker, she's a smart one too.

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GRAVITY (103)

Clara Swindell claims to have created a potion that blocks gravity and helps people lose weight. Is it too good to be true? Sam Bookman, owner of a rival health center, thinks so. Against his better judgment, he sneaks a peak at Clara's secret formula. He gets a sample, but Clara catches him in the act. She claims that Sam contaminated the liquid and takes him to court. Sam's only defense is to prove that everything has gravity, and you can't take that away. With the help of Alison Krempel, they educate the jury, and even Doug Savage, about the concept of gravity. Sam is found guilty of sneaking into a place he didn't belong but innocent of ruining a potion that never really existed.

INERTIA (104)

Handsome and obnoxious movie star J.C. Cramwood returns to his hometown and discovers the new local craze is an orange ball called a B.A.A.D. -- Biggish Attention Attracting Doohickey. The B.A.A.D. is a safety device that gets attached to an antenna-like wire which extends off the back of bicycles. Immediately, Cramwood runs out and purchases one. But when his B.A.A.D. hits him in the head every time he stops his bike, he takes the creator, an old classmate with an old grudge, to court. In court, it is revealed that Cramwood has significantly increased the size of his B.A.A.D. to draw more attention to himself. Increasing the mass of the B.A.A.D., the jury learns, also increased its inertia. The laws of motion explain the problem. Verdict: not guilty.

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SOUND (105)

Sasha Meany has organized a midnight celebration for Sciville's Bicentennial. Shep Sherman sits on top of a hill and has the job of firing a cannon at exactly 12:00 to officially begin the extravaganza. The residents of Sciville count down to midnight but it isn't until ten seconds later that they hear the cannon blast. Sasha, feeling her reputation as an event planner has been damaged, takes Shep to court. She claims he fired the cannon late. In court, the facts about sound prove that Shep didn't fire the cannon late. Because sound travels in waves and Shep was two miles from the celebration, the sound of the cannon took ten seconds to reach the party. Shep is found not guilty.

STATISTICS (106)

Shep Sherman is taking Police Chief Lois Chan to court because she has been ignoring his warnings of an imminent alien invasion. Shep believes that statistics he has gathered present a mysterious correlation between UFO sightings and left-handed persons. But are his statistics reliable? Attorney Alison Krempel examines Shep's data collection and analysis. The jury learns about random sampling, bias and a bit about the scientific method. They find out that the only thing alien in this case is Shep's technique, and the jury rules in favor of Police Chief Chan.

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HEAT EXPANSION (107)

If a brass plaque falls on movie star J.C. Cramwood's head, and three hundred people are there to witness it, does Doug Savage have a case? You bet. Doug takes sculptress Sonya Sondheim to court and charges that she made a faulty plaque, and if found guilty, asks that she be forced to construct a "life size statue of Cramwood that is 200 feet high." But Sonya's attorney Alison Krempel proves that it was the heat from powerful spotlights -- which Cramwood aimed at his plaque -- that caused the particles that make up the brass to expand and pop out of its wooden frame. Sonya is found not guilty and breathes a huge sigh of relief knowing she will never have to make a statue of Cramwood that has a "helicopter landing pad on top of its head."

AIR PRESSURE (108)

Captain Quesmit thinks he has discovered a cheap way to fly garbage -- and tourists -- out to sea: by sucking all the air out of his Air Quesmo-barge. That way, he figures, it's lighter than air and should rise up. Good idea, in theory. But when the Captain finds his metal invention in a crumpled heap the next morning, it's a job for Doug Savage. Doug takes Biggo Enormo Trash Compactor owner Paul Plummer to court and accuses him of crushing Quesmit's dream machine. Things get a little hairy for Plummer, as his normally capable attorney Alison Krempel seems stumped. Finally, Alison rallies and proves that it was air pressure that crushed Quesmit's metal barge. Mystery solved. A not guilty verdict is returned for Paul Plummer and Doug Savage is once again denied the sweet taste of victory.

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ELECTRICAL CURRENT (109)

When Mary Murray stands accused of trying to "burgle" the home of I.M. Richman and steal his precious ping pong trophy, it doesn't look good. Mary has no alibi and a strong motive. After all, she did beat Mr. Richman in a ping pong match and feels the trophy rightfully belongs to her. Richman, along with his duffer attorney Doug Savage, are confident they have a strong case. But after some twists and turns, Mary's lawyer Alison Krempel discovers that Richman had repaired a broken wire in his burglar alarm system earlier that day, using his dog Wedgewood's wire leash. The problem, much to Richman's chagrin, Mary's relief and Doug's shock, is that it is not the kind of wire that conducts electricity. Alison is thus able to prove the alarm system was never working to begin with and could not possibly have detected an intruder. Mary is found not guilty; a reluctant Richman faces a ping pong rematch; and Doug Savage finally finds someone who understands him.

SOIL (110)

Sciville's Mayor Daisby wants to fix up the "Old Dust Fields" and make them suitable for farming again. But to do this she needs to buy ten LFI-700s from Mr. Norton, the owner of Gadget Co., Inc., at a mere one million dollars apiece. That's a lot of money, but what are you going to do? Come up with a better idea, that's what. And handyman/part-time inventor, Eddie Watt does just that. Eddie claims his little "invention," the EW-800, does everything Mr. Norton's machine does, and for only -- get this -- one dollar. Norton is outraged and accuses Eddie of stealing his plans for the LFI. Mayor Daisby decides to hold off on spending 10 million dollars, which upsets Norton even more, and the whole mess winds up in court. Eddie retains the services of Alison Krempel, who first educates the courtroom about soil. Norton's attorney, Doug Savage, then compares machines with Ms. Krempel in a game of "top this." But the winner is easily Eddie, after it is revealed that his "invention" is actually . . . a worm. The amazing life of the earthworm is explored and Eddie is found not guilty.

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LIVING THINGS (111)

Struggling poet, Walter Williamson, finds himself in a hole. He writes sad, sweet poems that memorialize people's deceased pets and guarantees satisfaction. Sounds strange, but simple enough. That is until Clara Swindell contracts Walter to write sad, sweet poems for her deceased . . . chicken bone, brine shrimp egg and leather wallet? That's right. And if Walter doesn't write them he could lose his "poetic license." Fortunately, ex-classmate and attorney Alison Krempel happens along. Alison must prove at least two of the three items are not "dead" in order to get Walter off the hook. Clara's attorney, the inimitable Doug Savage, is relentless, but poetic justice prevails. The jury learns that scientists put everything into three categories: Living, non-living and dead. And the definition of each category is what saves Walter's career. He is found not guilty of breaking his guarantee and the jury gets a chance to recite some poetic verses of their own.

SEASONS (112)

What if someone were to tell you summer wasn't coming? And then they accused you of not only knowing about this catastrophe, but also trying to profit from it by selling synchronized swimming lessons that you knew you wouldn't have to teach? Well, then you'd know how Shep Sherman feels after Heather Hancock does just that. After a chilly June visit to Australia, Heather does a "little" investigating and discovers that the Earth is moving away from the sun, which she interprets as summer not coming, since being close to the sun is what makes the summer season . . . right? Well, Heather thinks so and so does her lawyer Doug Savage who brings the whole thing to court. Shep meanwhile retains the services of attorney Alison Krempel. The capable Krempel promptly sends Savage's case spinning, as her expert witnesses explain all about orbits, rotations, revolutions, tilts, direct rays, slanting rays and, well, everything under the sun with regard to what really causes the seasons. The jury not only finds Shep Sherman not guilty, but also finds him to be a pretty good synchronized swimming instructor after all.

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FOSSILS (113)

When attorney Doug Savage accidentally finds what is believed to be a fossil at the controversial construction site of movie star J.C. Cramwood's new "Planet Cramwood Cafe," Doug couldn't be happier. Until it's suggested that Jack Jenkins -- bike shop owner and construction protester -- planted a fake fossil in hopes of halting construction. So, it's off to court, where Jenkins' attorney Alison Krempel is not only able to prove that the fossil is real, but in the process educates the court on all the different types of fossils. So Doug tries another approach as he questions the relevance of a fossil, saying that one can't learn anything from a fossil anyway. Alison's expert witnesses show the jury just how much information one little fossil can tell us. By the end of the trial, even Cramwood is a paleontology convert. Jenkins is found not guilty and Cramwood decides to bury his plans for a cafe and instead construct a new fossil museum, with construction starting just as soon as the site is declared fossil free.

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